

Career is colourful for paint decorator specialist

Where do you work? I am working in Brisbane as a painter decorator. I specialise in mineral coating, stucco and traditional lime based paint and plaster.

How did you earn your first dollar?

I worked as decorator in France doing mostly residential and retail projects. When I arrived in Brisbane, almost 3 years ago I first worked as a painter for a local company and during this time I met a lot of people interested in my skills.

I slowly gained my own clients who appreciated unique finishes such as stucco and tadelakt at their homes. My most important and the most rewarding project was definitely Limes Hotel in Fortitude Valley. I had a chance to work with great people.

What standard of education did you reach?

At high school I did visual arts and graphic design but I wanted to work with my hands so I did my apprenticeship in France at Les Compagnons du Tour de France- Federation of Journeymen in Building Trades – one of the most recognised trade schools where artists are teaching their skills and knowledge built on tradition and experience. I not only learned how to apply the product, but also the knowledge on how to make the products and all the secret ingredients. I also did special courses to learn techniques like fresco.

What was your first full-time job? My first full time job was sales consultant in a specialist paint shop called Resource. I was also training people how to use apply various painting techniques. Resources decorative finishes included lime based coating called chaux ferree and chaux fine (very popular in France and Italy).

Is your current job the career you envisaged for yourself when you finished study? Yes, I consider myself lucky to practice a job that I love and do something creative and unique. Techniques I have learned have been passed from master to apprentice for thousands of years in an unbroken lineage and I'm glad to keep and do my part in this history and tradition.

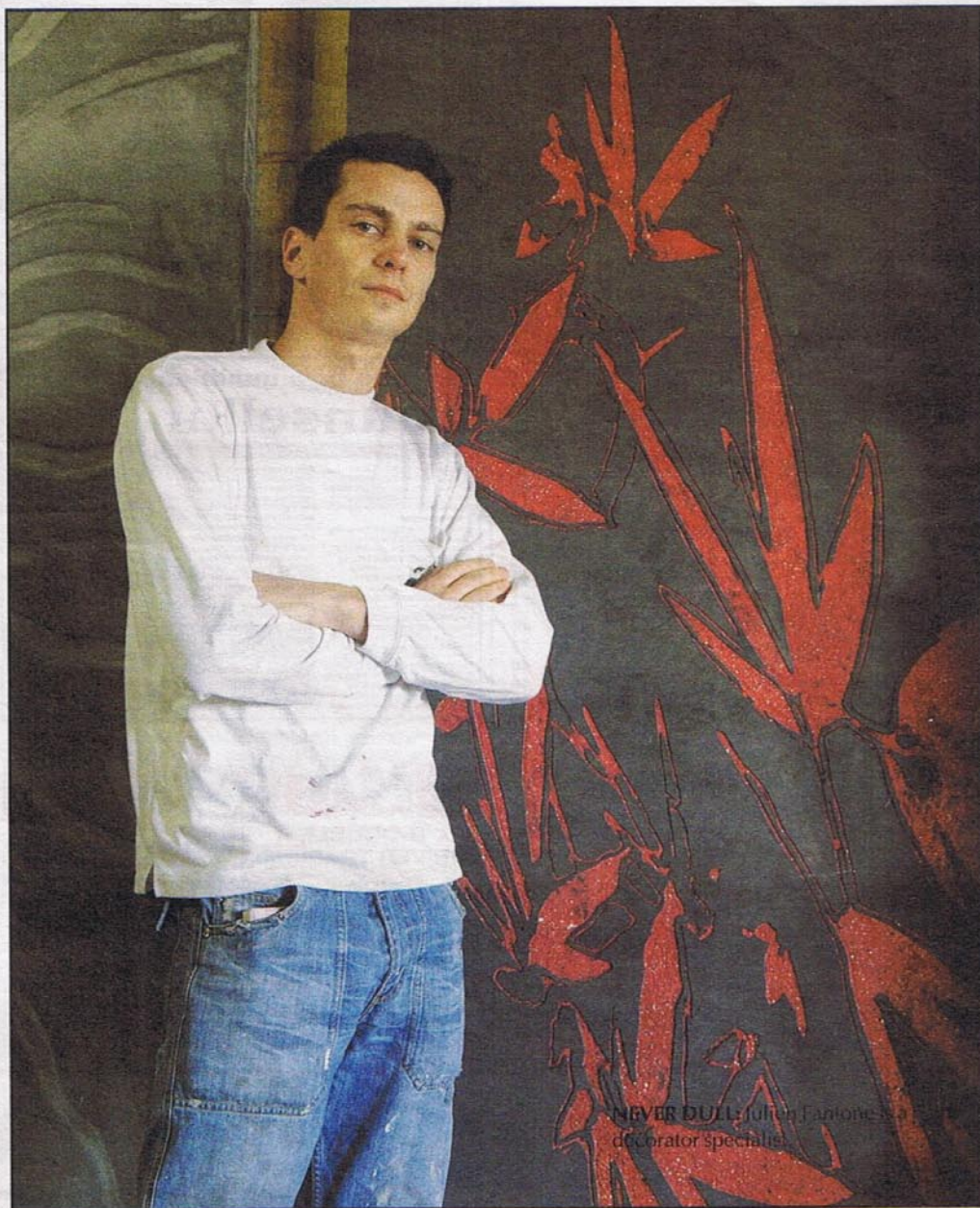
What made you choose this career?

The creative and crafting side of these decorative finishes techniques. They are just all unique and these textures are just so beautiful to see and to touch. I get inspired when I first see and apply these techniques.

How many times have you changed career? Once. I started as a painter and now I am a painter decorator.

Is their another career change in you? No.
What would you do if you were forced to give up your current job? Hopefully it will not happen, but if it will, I am sure that I would pursue another creative outlet.

What has been the biggest success in your career? Limes Hotel in Fortitude Valley has been the biggest success in my career and has granted me the greatest satisfaction, but every



NEVER DULL: Julien Fantone is a paint decorator specialist

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- **NAME:** Julien Fantone
- **DATE OF BIRTH:** August 23, 1981
- **SUBURB OF RESIDENCE:** Annerley (originally from France)
- **JOB DESCRIPTION:** Paint decorator specialist under the brand Idea Creations (www.ideacreations.com.au).

What has been your biggest regret? No regrets.

What is the most pleasing aspect of your job? The opportunity to be creative every minute of my working day.

aspect? To obtain new clients. My techniques will get popular in Brisbane soon, but ultimately it is trend dependent. The lime based products are not popular in Australia yet. In Europe they have been very popular because of the ecological benefits as well as the decorative aspects.

Are you actively grooming a successor for when you decide to step down? Not yet.

What tips do you have for people starting out in their careers? Be passionate about what you pursue.

What tips do you have for people just beginning a business to manage staff and budgets? To be well organised. Jobs and work will come by reputation and it's important to have good success before spending too much money on the tangibles such as materials and